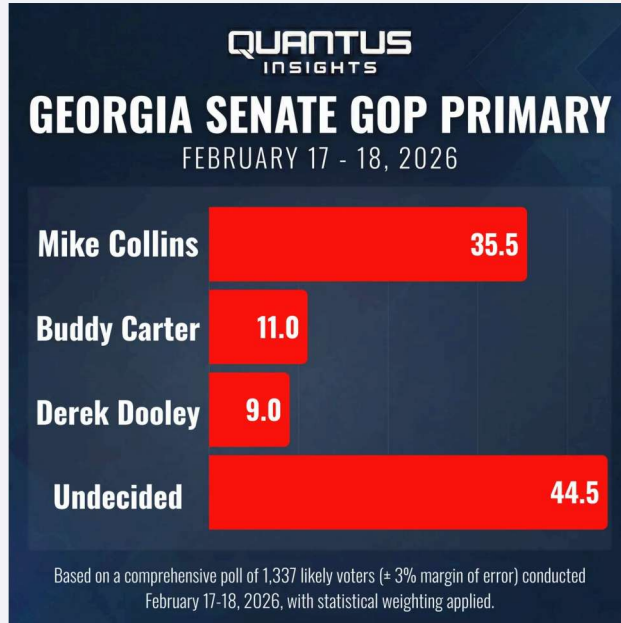


# Georgia Republicans: Unified on Trump, Unsettled Down-Ballot

February 19, 2026 | 2026 Election

*Our latest Quantus survey finds a large undecided vote and an electorate still forming its 2026 choices.*



Georgia Republicans are entering the 2026 primary season with an unusual combination of confidence and uncertainty: high satisfaction with national leadership, paired with wide-open contests for U.S. Senate, Governor, and Lieutenant Governor. (See the poll [here at our interactive website](#)).

The central theme across races is not ideological fracture but incomplete decision-making. In two marquee statewide contests, undecided voters make up roughly four in ten and in the Lieutenant Governor's contest, nearly eight in ten.

### U.S. Senate: Collins Leads, but the Race Is Still Mostly Unclaimed

If the Republican Senate primary were held today, the ballot stands at:

- **Mike Collins: 35.5%**
- **Buddy Carter: 11%**
- **Derek Dooley: 9%**
- **Undecided: 44.5%**

Since October, Collins has consolidated support and widened his lead, while Carter and Dooley have slipped. Although a meaningful share of voters remain undecided, Collins enters the next phase of the primary as the clear frontrunner with measurable momentum. That dynamic shows up inside key turnout-history buckets as well.

Below we compare October support levels to the most recent survey within each voter engagement group. The percentages reflect how support has shifted among frequent GOP primary voters (those who have participated 3-4 times) and lower-engagement voters (1-2 times). The comparisons show how each candidate's share has changed over time within those segments.

### High-Engagement GOP Primary Voters (3-4x Participants)

Among consistent primary voters, Collins has gained meaningful ground while Carter and Dooley have both declined. A portion of movement has also flowed into the undecided column.

- **Mike Collins: 29.3% to 37.2% (+7.9)**
- **Buddy Carter: 17.4% to 10.9% (-6.5)**
- **Derek Dooley: 15.6% to 9.0% (-6.6)**

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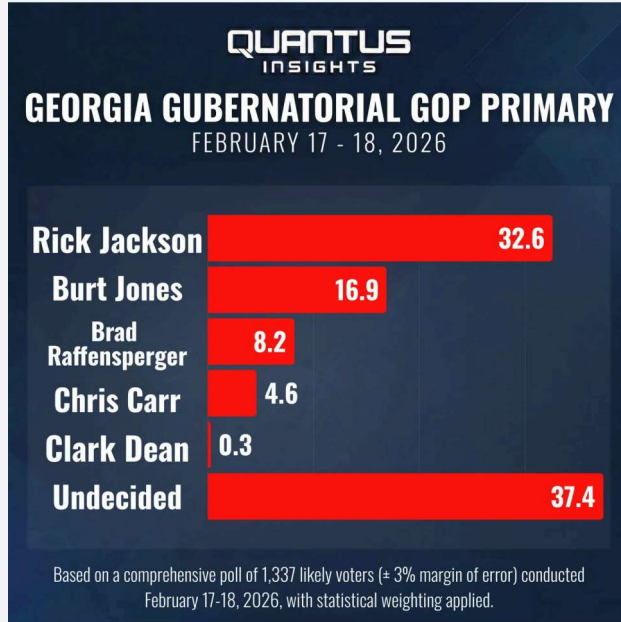
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Among less frequent primary voters, the pattern is similar: Collins advances, Carter and Dooley contract, and undecided expands even further.

- **Undecided:** 37.8% to 42.6% (+4.8)
- **Mike Collins:** 26.0% to 31.5% (+5.5)
- **Buddy Carter:** 18.2% to 11.1% (-7.1)
- **Derek Dooley:** 12.8% to 8.2% (-4.6)
- **Undecided:** 42.9% to 48.2% (+5.3)

The pattern is consistent: Collins gains in both engaged and less-engaged strata, but undecided rises as well. That's the signature of a race where alternatives are weakening faster than a single successor is consolidating.



**Governor: A New Entrant Leads, with a Large Share Still Shopping**

In the Republican primary for Governor, the ballot is:

- **Undecided:** 37.4%
- **Rick Jackson:** 32.6%
- **Burt Jones:** 16.9%
- **Brad Raffensperger:** 8.2%
- **Chris Carr:** 4.6%
- **Clark Dean:** 0.3%

Two facts stand out immediately.

First, the contest remains open: nearly four in ten have not chosen a candidate.

Second, Rick Jackson's 32.7% is a striking early showing given that he entered the race earlier this month. In practical terms, he begins the campaign already within five points of the undecided vote and roughly two-to-one over Burt Jones, the next closest contender at 16.0%.

That doesn't guarantee durability. Early leads can be a function of novelty, name recognition, or a temporary "first look" bump. But it does establish Jackson as a top-tier contender immediately, and it ensures that the race will now be defined in part by whether Jones (and the rest of the field) can consolidate the large undecided pool.

**Lieutenant Governor: A Vacuum, Not a Contest Yet**

The lieutenant governor's race, as measured today, is not yet a competition so much as a placeholder:

- **Undecided:** 78.7%
- **John F. Kennedy:** 6.1%
- **Greg Dolezal:** 5.2%
- **Blake Tillery:** 4%
- **Steve Gooch:** 2.7%
- **David Clark:** 2.3%
- **Brenda Nelson-Porter:** 0.9%

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### The Larger Context: What Georgia GOP Voters Say About Power, Endorsements, and the Mood

This survey also captures the underlying environment shaping these primaries.

#### Trump approval inside the GOP electorate is overwhelming

- **Strongly approve: 66%**
- **Somewhat approve: 21%**
- **Somewhat disapprove: 4%**
- **Strongly disapprove: 7%**
- **Unsure: 2%**

That is 86.5% approve overall, with disapproval in the low double digits, an important clue as to why most statewide candidates will compete to align with the prevailing party mood rather than run against it.

#### Endorsements matter and Trump's edge is real, but not absolute

Asked whose endorsement would be more important in the GOP primary for Senate or Governor:

- **Trump's endorsement: 30%**
- **Kemp's endorsement: 23%**
- **Neither: 19%**
- **Both equally: 17%**
- **Unsure: 10%**

That's a meaningful advantage for Trump but it's also a warning label for simplistic narratives. A combined 36.6% say either neither endorsement matters or they value both equally, and another 9.9% are unsure. Endorsement politics will help, but it won't decide everything on its own.

#### The GOP electorate's identity is heavily "America First," but not monolithic

- **Strongly aligned with MAGA: 41%**
- **Traditional Republican/Conservative: 28%**
- **Supportive of MAGA ideas, not exclusively: 21%**
- **Other/none/not strongly ideological: ~9-10% combined**

In other words: a clear "America First" plurality, a large traditional bloc, and a meaningful middle that signals openness to persuasion depending on candidate tone, trust, and familiarity.

#### What This Means

Georgia Republicans are not in revolt. They are in selection mode.

- In the Senate race, Collins leads today, but a 45% undecided electorate means persuasion and turnout mechanics remain decisive.
- In the Governor's race, Jackson's 33% is an immediate statement, but 37.6% undecided leaves room for consolidation, especially for Jones at 16.0% if he can unify familiar factions.
- In the Lieutenant Governor's race, voters have barely begun paying attention.

The strongest constant is the party's confidence at the top of the ticket. The open question is which figures will successfully translate that mood into durable, personal support down-ballot.

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